

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3741

ANSWERED ON:13.12.2000

CRISIS OF WATER

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether experts have indicated that water crisis in certain areas of the country is likely to increase in the ensuing months;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise alongwith the extent to which the crisis is likely to occur there;
- (c) whether the Government have formulated any action plan to deal with the water crisis in these States;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) to (e) Natural Disaster management (NDM) Division of Ministry of Agriculture has mentioned that due to the deficient rains of South-West Monsoon, the States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhatisgarh, Orissa & Rajasthan are experiencing the drought like conditions which may intensify in the summer months of the year 2001.

Central Water Commission is monitoring the status of storages of 70 important major reservoirs in the country. The overall storage in these reservoirs at the end of monsoon season is 81.4 b.c.m. which is about 62% of the total designed live storage capacity (131 b.c.m.), 83% of last year's capacity and 79% of the last ten year' average. Storage position in states where the drought like situation is prevailing is given in Annex-I.

The Central Water Commission and MOWR have written to the concerned States Governments in the month of November, 2000 for taking necessary measures for water conservation in the affected areas. The measures suggested are:

- (i) The releases from the reservoir should be regulated keeping in view the possible water deficit and making curtailments for irrigation in consultation with States Agriculture Department.
- (ii) While releasing water from the reservoir, priority should be given to drinking water supply. A proper planning for meeting the drinking water requirement for the area to cater upto June 2001 needs to be done.
- (iii) People in the affected areas should be educated adequately to conserve the available water and put the same to maximum use.
- (iv) In case of hydel-power/multipurpose projects, where the storage in the reservoir is very low, the releases for hydro- power generation may be made keeping in view the drinking water requirements till the onset of next monsoon. The rule- curve of these reservoirs may have to be revised accordingly.